

**Telford and Wrekin Local Plan**

**Response to Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs)**

**Matter 2 – Vision, Priorities and Development Strategy**

**Issue 1:** Have the vision, priorities and development strategy been positively prepared, are they justified and consistent with national policy, and can all be realistically achieved?

**Q19:** Does the Plan set out an appropriate vision for the Borough based upon the evidence?

DIO supports the vision and objectives set out in Section 3 of the submission plan, which are supportive of growth in the most sustainable locations with good access to facilities, services and job opportunities. It is considered that the development of the Land North East of Muxton Sustainable Community will make a significant contribution towards meeting these objectives, particularly in relation to delivery of housing and employment provision.

DIO support the amendment proposed in the submission version of the emerging local plan which sets out the brownfield status of the Parsons and Venning barracks. This is particularly relevant to Venning's status as existing development within a Strategic Employment Area (SEA). This site has the ability to provide employment as a component of the proposed Sustainable Community at Muxton, ensuring that there is an adequate mix of uses which ensures sustainable connections between residential and commercial provision.

**Q24:** Is the site selection process clear and suitably robust, supported by the SA and other evidence?

DIO supports the site selection process undertaken, which concludes with the majority of future growth being delivered through sustainable extensions to the existing urban area, recognising that "as the town has matured there are fewer opportunities for large scale brownfield development that can help meet the boroughs development needs" (see paragraph 4.5 of the submission plan).

Notwithstanding the above recognition that brownfield land is in short supply, DIO wishes to highlight that Parsons and Venning Barracks, which represents 25.31ha (c.14%) of the 182ha North East of Muxton Sustainable Community, is a rare example of a large-scale brownfield site located within the adopted built-up area boundary.

NPPF paragraph 126 requires LPAs to take a proactive role in identifying and helping to bring forward land which may be suitable for meeting development needs, including brownfield sites held in public ownership. This supports the selection of Parsons and Venning barracks as part of the proposed Muxton Sustainable Community.